

LEGISLATIVE AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 26-1, RULE 13, OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY RELATING TO CLOSING OF PARKS; ADJUSTING PARK HOURS OF OPERATION; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Sen. Javier D. Souto

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I. Summary

Ordinance 1(C)1 amends Section 26-1, Rule 13 to keep open for 24 hours Miami-Dade County Parks with illuminated walking paths.

Ordinance 1(C)1 would keep open until 11 p.m. Miami-Dade County Parks with illuminated walking paths or adequate lighting.

II. Present Situation

Currently, County parks that are fenced or gated are closed to the public between the closing of the park at night and the opening of the park on the next day. Parks that are not fenced in or gated are closed to the public from sunset to sunrise.

III. Policy Change and Implication

If approved, item 1(C)1 would allow parks with illuminated walkways, or parks with adequate lighting to remain open for 24 hours.

The substitute item would allow park facilities with well-lit areas to remain open to the public until 11 p.m.

The 17 parks with illuminated walkways or adequate night-time lighting are: **A.D. Barnes Park**, 3401 S.W. 72 Avenue; **Blue Lakes Park**, SW 42 Terrace and 92 Avenue; **Briar Bay Park**, S.W. 128 Street and 90 Avenue; **Concord Park**, SW 32 Street and 114 Avenue; **Forest Lakes Park**, SW 99 Street and 164 Avenue; **Francisco Human Rights**, 9445 Coral Way; **Haulover Park**, 10800 Collins Avenue; **Highland Oaks Park**, 20300 N.E. 24 Avenue; **International Gardens**, SW 18 Street and SW 123 Court; **Kendale Park**, SW 93 Street and Kendale Blvd.; **Kendale Lakes Park**, 7850 S.W. 142 Avenue; **Lago Mar Park**, SW 162 Avenue and 80

Street; **Leisure Lakes Park**, 29305 Illinois Road; **Oak Grove Park**, 690 N.E. 159 Street; **Ojus Park**, 18995 W. Dixie Highway; **Southern Estates**, 12199 S.W. 34 Street; **South Dade Park**, 16350 S.W. 280 Street.

IV. Economic Impact

The economic impact of closing at 11 p.m. at 17 parks would be \$701,646 which would include the cost for:

- Two full-time park security supervisors
- Seven full-time park security officers
- Seven part-time park security officers

V. Comments and Questions.

The following questions were answered by the Department of Parks and Recreation:

Has a study ever been done to assess attendance at parks over night and feasibility of keeping them open 24 hours? No.

Are there any liability issues that we should be concerned with? Once closure hours are posted, it gives parks security and police the authority to remove anyone from a park at unauthorized hours.